

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF CHILD NUTRITION  
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M E M O R A N D U M

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TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Day Care Home Sponsors

FROM: Maureen B. Staggenborg, Director  
Office of Child Nutrition

DATE: March 7, 2003

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum - #08H-03  
**I. Military Families and Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs**  
**II. Baby Fruits or Vegetables with Docosahexaenoic (DHA)**

**I. Military Families and Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs**

The U.S. department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided clarification on child nutrition policy for households affected by deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and possible future military contingencies.

In recent years, USDA has addressed the deployment of family members for military service to accommodate free and reduced price meal eligibility determinations, tier I day care home determinations, and meal benefits for children temporarily residing with their providers. This memorandum reiterates previous guidance on these issues.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members should be considered as family members living apart on a temporary basis. Households completing an income application must include the names and income of deployed service members. In making the determination, the service member must be counted as part of the household in establishing a child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals, or a day care home provider's eligibility for tier I reimbursement rates.

Deployment of a parent or guardian may also affect the eligibility of a child, who temporarily resides with a day care home provider, to receive meals in the CACFP. Although the child may live with the provider while the service member is deployed, the child would not be considered a "provider's own" child. In this special situation, the child would continue to participate in the meal service as a nonresidential participant. To claim reimbursement for program meals, the day care home provider must have power of attorney, custody, or an agreement established by the military to provide residential care to the child.

## **II. Baby Fruits or Vegetables with Docosahexaenoic (DHA)**

Certain baby food products containing DHA cannot be served to infants as part of a reimbursable meal in the child nutrition programs. DHA is an omega-3 fatty acid known as docosahexaenoic that may be added to commercially prepared fruits or vegetables.

The source of DHA in some lines of baby food products, such as Beech-Nut First Advantage Sweet Potato Soufflé or Tropical Blend, is egg yolk. These DHA-added products combine fruits or vegetables with dried egg yolk, heavy cream, rice flour, vanilla extract, and other ingredients that may not be appropriate for an infant younger than 8 months of age. Introducing these “dessert-like” ingredients into an infant’s diet at an earlier age could result in food sensitivity or a food allergy.

Although DHA-added products cannot contribute to the infant meal pattern, they may be served as additional foods to infants 8 months of age or older. Since they contain several ingredients, additives, or extenders that could cause allergic reactions, USDA recommends that the provider check with the infant’s parent or guardian, before serving them.

If you have any questions regarding the issues addressed, please feel free to contact Charlene Russell-Tucker at 860-807-2071, or Susan Bohuslaw at 860-807-2073.

MBS:crt

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